

resembling sleep; as **a**: a state of torpid inactivity **b**: DEATH (put a pet cat to ~); also: TRANCE, COMA **c**: the closing of leaves or petals esp. at night **d**: a state marked by a diminution of feeling followed by tingling (my foot's gone to ~) **e**: the state of an animal during hibernation (the groundhog's winter ~) **3 a**: a period spent sleeping **b**: NIGHT **c**: a day's journey — **sleep-like** \slē-plik/ *adj*

sleep *vb* \slept/ **sleeping** *vi* (bef. 12c) **1**: to rest in a state of sleep **2**: to be in a state (as of quiescence or death) resembling sleep **3**: to have sexual relations ~ *vi* **1**: to be slumbering in (sleep the sleep of the dead) **2**: to get rid of or spend in or by sleep (~ away the hours) (~ off a drunk) **3**: to provide sleeping accommodations for (the boat ~s six)

sleep around *vi* (ca. 1964): to engage in sex promiscuously

sleep-er \slē-par/ *n* (13c) **1**: one that sleeps **2**: a piece of timber, stone, or steel on or near the ground to support a superstructure, keep railroad rails in place, or receive floor joists: STRINGPIECE **3**: SLEEPING CAR **4**: someone or something unpromising or unnoticed that suddenly attains prominence or value **5 pl**: children's pajamas usu. with feet

sleep-in \slē-pin/ *adj* (1951): that lives at the place of employment (a ~ maid)

sleep in \slē-pin/ *vi* (ca. 1912) **1**: to sleep where one is employed **2 a**: OVERSLEEP **b**: to sleep late intentionally

sleeping bag *n* (1856): a bag that is warmly lined or padded for sleeping outdoors or in a camp or tent

Sleeping Beauty *n*: a princess of a fairy tale who is awakened from an enchanted sleep by the kiss of a prince

sleeping car *n* (1839): a railroad passenger car having berths for sleeping

sleeping partner *n* (ca. 1785): SECRET PARTNER

sleeping pill *n* (1945): a drug and esp. a barbiturate that is taken as a tablet or capsule to induce sleep — called also **sleeping tablet**

sleeping porch *n* (1920): a porch or room having open sides or many windows arranged to permit sleeping in the open air

sleeping sickness *n* (1875) **1**: a serious disease that is prevalent in much of tropical Africa, is marked by fever, protracted lethargy, tremors, and loss of weight, is caused by either of two trypanosomes (*Trypanosoma gambiense* and *T. rhodesiense*), and is transmitted by tsetse flies **2**: any of various viral encephalitis or encephalomyelitis of which lethargy or somnolence is a prominent feature

sleepless \slē-pləs/ *adj* (15c) **1**: not able to sleep: INSOMNIAC **2**: affording no sleep **3**: unceasingly active — **sleepless-ly** *adv* — **sleeplessness** *n*

sleep out *vi* (1912): to sleep outdoors

sleep-walker \slēp-wō-kər/ *n* (1747): one that walks in or as if in his sleep: SOMNAMBULIST — **sleep-walk** \-wōk/ *vi*

sleep-wear \-wə(ə)r, -wē(ə)r/ *n* (1951): NIGHTCLOTHES

sleepy \slē-pē/ *adj* **sleep-ier**, -est (13c) **1 a**: ready to fall asleep **b**: of, relating to, or characteristic of sleep **2**: sluggish as if from sleep: LETHARGIC; also: INACTIVE **3**: sleep-inducing — **sleep-i-ly** \-pē-lē/ *adv* — **sleep-i-ness** \-pē-nəs/ *n*

sleepy-head \slē-pē-hed/ *n* (1577): a sleepy person

sleet \slēt/ *n* [ME *slete*; akin to MHG *slōz* hailstone, ME *sloor* mud — more at SLUR] (14c) **1**: frozen or partly frozen rain **2**: GLAZE **1** — **sleety** \-ē/ *adj*

sleet *vi* (14c): to shower sleet

sleeve \slēv/ *n* [ME *sleve*, fr. OE *sliefe*; akin to OE *slēfan* to slip (clothes) on, *slāpan* to slip, OHG *slifan*, L *lubricus* slippery] (bef. 12c) **1 a**: a part of a garment covering an arm **b**: SLEEVELET **2 a**: a tubular part (as a hollow axle or a bushing) designed to fit over another part **b**: an open-ended flat or tubular packaging or cover; esp: JACKET 3c(2) — **sleeved** \slēvd/ *adj* — **sleeve-less** \slēv-ləs/ *adj* — **up one's sleeve**: held secretly in reserve

sleeve-let \slēv-lət/ *n* (ca. 1912): a covering for the forearm to protect clothing from wear or dirt

sleigh \slā/ *n* [D *slee*, alter. of *slēde*; akin to MD *slēdde* sled] (1703): a vehicle on runners used for transporting persons or goods on snow or ice

sleigh *vi* (1728): to drive or travel in a sleigh

sleigh bed *n* (1926): a bed common esp. in the first half of the 19th century having a solid headboard and footboard that roll outward at the top

sleigh bell *n* (1772): any of various bells commonly attached to a sleigh or to the harness of a horse drawing a sleigh; as **a**: CASCABEL **2 b**: a hemispherical bell with an attached clapper

sleight \slīt/ *n* [ME, fr. ON *slægt*, fr. *slægr* sly — more at SLY] (13c) **1**: deceitful craftiness; also: STRATAGEM **2**: DEXTERITY, SKILL

sleight of hand (1605) **1 a**: a conjuring trick requiring sleight of hand **b**: a cleverly executed trick or deception **2 a**: skill and dexterity in conjuring tricks **b**: adroitness in deception

slender \slēn-dər/ *adj* [ME *slendre*, *slendre*] (14c) **1 a**: spare in frame or flesh; esp: gracefully slight **b**: small or narrow in circumference or width in proportion to length or height **2**: limited or inadequate in amount or scope: MEAGER *syn* see THIN — **slender-ly** *adv* — **slender-ness** *n*

slender-ize \-də-rīz/ *vt* -ized, -izing (1923): to make slender

slenth \slēth/ *n* [short for *slenthound*] (1901): DETECTIVE

slenth *vi* (1903): to act as a detective ~ *vi*: to search for and discover

slenthound \slēth-haund/ *n* [ME, fr. *slenth* track of an animal or person (fr. ON *slōth*) + *hound*] (1856): DETECTIVE

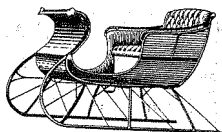
slaw \slā/ *past* of SLAY

slaw *var* of SLOUGH

slaw *vb* [origin unknown] *vt* (ca. 1769) **1**: to turn (as a telescope or a ship's spar) about a fixed point that is usu. the axis **2**: to cause to skid: VEER (~ a car around a turn) ~ *vi* **1**: to turn, twist, or swing about: PIVOT **2**: SKID

slaw *n* [Irish Gaelic *slauagh*] (1840): a large number

slice \slīs/ *n* [ME, fr. MF *esclice* splinter, fr. OF, fr. *esclicier* to splinter, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *slīzan* to tear apart — more at SLIT] (15c) **1 a**: a thin flat piece cut from something **b**: a wedge-shaped piece



sleigh

(as of pie or cake) **2**: a spatula for spreading paint or ink **3**: a serving knife with wedge-shaped blade (a fish ~) **4**: a flight of a ball that deviates from a straight course in the direction of the dominant hand of the player propelling it; also: a ball following such a course — *com-* pare HOOK **5**: PORTION, SHARE (a ~ of the profits)

slice *vb* \slīd/ **slicing** *vi* (15c) **1**: to cut with or as if with a knife **2**: to stir or spread with a slice **3**: to hit (a ball) so that a slice results ~ *vi* **1**: to slice something **2**: to move with a cutting action (the ship sliced through the waves) — **slicer** *n*

slice bar *n* (1846): a steel bar with a broad flat blade for chipping or scraping (as in breaking up clinkers)

slice-of-life *adj* [fr. the *n. phrase slice of life*, trans. of F *tranche de vie*] (ca. 1934): of, relating to, or marked by the accurate transcription (as into drama) of a segment of actual life experience

slick \slīk/ *vb* [ME *slīken*; akin to OHG *slīhan* to glide, Gk *leios* smooth] *vt* (13c): to make sleek or smooth ~ *vi*: SPRUCE — *usu. used with up*

slick *adj* (14c) **1 a**: having a smooth surface: SLIPPERY **b**: having surface plausibility or appeal: GLIB, GLOSSY **c**: based on stereotype: TRITE **2 archaic**: SLEEK **1 3 a**: characterized by subtlety or nimble wit: CLEVER; esp: WILY **b**: DEFT, SKILLFUL **4**: extremely good: FIRST-RATE *syn* see SLEEK — **slick** *adv* — **slick-ly** *adv* — **slick-ness** *n*

slick *n* (1849) **1 a**: something that is smooth or slippery; esp: a smooth patch of water covered with a film of oil **b**: a film of oil **2**: an implement for producing a slick surface: as **a**: a flat paddle usu. of steel for smoothing a sample of flour **b**: a foundry tool for smoothing the surface of a sand mold or unbaked core **3**: a popular magazine printed on coated stock **4**: an automobile tire made without a tread for maximum traction (as in drag racing)

slick-ear \slīk-(ə)r/ *n* (1926): a range animal lacking an earmark

slick-en-side \slīk-ən-sīd/ *n* [E dial. *slīcken* smooth (alter. of E *slīck* + E *side*] (1822): a smooth often striated surface produced on rock by movement along a fault or a subsidiary fracture — *usu. used in pl.*

slick-er \slīk-ər/ *n* (1881) **1** [slīk]: OILSKIN; broadly: RAINCOAT **2** [slīk] to defraud cleverly] **a**: a clever crook: SWINDLER **b**: a city dweller esp. of natty appearance or sophisticated mannerisms

slide \slīd/ *vb* \slīd/ **sliding** \slīd-īn/ [ME *sliden*, fr. OE *slīdan*; akin to MHG *slīten* to slide, Gk *leios* smooth — more at LIME] *vi* (bef. 12c) **1 a**: to move smoothly along a surface: SLIP **b**: to coast over snow or ice **c**: to approach a base in baseball by gliding along the ground usu. feetfirst with the weight of the body supported esp. on one hip **2 a**: to slip or fall by loss of footing **b**: to change position or become dislocated: SHIFT **3 a**: to slither along the ground: CRAWL **b**: to stream along: FLOW **4**: to take a natural course: DRIFT (let his affairs ~) **5 a**: to pass unobtrusively: STEAL **b**: to pass by gradations esp. downward (the economy slid from recession to depression) ~ *vr* **1 a**: to cause to glide or slip **b**: to traverse in a sliding manner **2**: to put unobtrusively or stealthily (slid the bill into his hand)

slide *n* (1570) **1 a**: an act or instance of sliding **b** (1): a musical grace of two or more small notes (2): PORTAMENTO **2**: a sliding part or mechanism: as **a** (1): a U-shaped section of tube in the trombone that is pushed out and in to produce the tones between the fundamental and its harmonics (2): a short U-shaped section of tube in brass instruments that is used to adjust the pitch of the instrument or of individual valves **b** (1): a moving piece (as the ram of a punch press) that is guided by a part along which it slides (2): a guiding surface (as a feeding mechanism) along which something slides **c**: SLIDING SEAT **3 a**: the descent of a mass of earth, rock, or snow down a hill or mountainside **b**: a dislocation in which one rock mass in a mining lode has slid on another: FAULT **4 a** (1): a slippery surface for coasting (2): a chute with a slippery bed down which children slide in play **b**: a channel or track on which something is slid **c**: a sloping trough down which objects are carried by gravity (a log ~) **5 a**: a flat piece of glass on which an object is mounted for microscopic examination **b**: a photographic transparency on a small plate or film arranged for projection **6**: BOTTLENECK **3**

slide fastener *n* (1939): ZIPPER

slid-er \slīd-ər/ *n* (1530) **1**: one that slides **2**: a fast baseball pitch that breaks slightly in the same direction as a curve

slide rule *n* (1663): an instrument used for calculation that consists in its simple form of a ruler and a medial slide that are graduated with similar logarithmic scales labeled with the corresponding antilogarithms

slide valve *n* (1802): a valve that opens and closes a passageway by sliding over a port; *specif*: such a valve often used in steam engines for admitting steam to the piston and releasing it

slide-way \slīd-wā/ *n* (1856): a way along which something slides

sliding scale *n* (1842) **1**: a wage scale geared to the selling price of the product or to the consumer price index but usu. guaranteeing a minimum below which the wage will not fall **2 a**: a system for raising or lowering tariffs in accord with price changes **b**: a flexible scale (as of fees or subsidies) adjusted to the needs or income of individuals (the sliding scale of medical fees)

sliding seat *n* (1874): a rower's seat (as in a racing shell) that slides fore and aft — called also **slide**

slither *comparative* of SLY

slither *superlative* of SLY

slight \slīt/ *adj* [ME, smooth, slight, prob. fr. MD *slīcht*; akin to OHG *slīhan* to glide — more at SLICK] (14c) **1 a**: having a slim or delicate build: not stout or massive in body **b**: lacking in strength or substance: FLIMSY, FRAIL **c**: deficient in weight, solidity, or importance: TRIVIAL **2**: small of its kind or in amount: SCANTY, MEAGER *syn* see THIN — **slight-ly** *adv* — **slight-ness** *n*

slight *vi* (1597) **1**: to treat as slight or unimportant: make light of **2**: to treat with disdain or indifference **3**: to perform or attend to carelessly and inadequately **4**: SLUR **3** *syn* see NEGLECT

slight *n* (1701) **1**: an act or an instance of slighting **2**: an instance of being slighted: a humiliating discourtesy

slight-ing *adj* (1632): characterized by disregard or disrespect: DISPARAGING (a ~ remark) — **slight-ly** \-īn-lē/ *adv*

slily *var* of SLYLY

slim \slīm/ *adj* **slim-mer**; **slim-mest** [D, bad, inferior, fr. MD *slīmp* crooked, bad; akin to MHG *slīmp* awry] (1657) **1**: of small diameter or thickness in proportion to the height or length: SLENDER **2 a**